

that they will accept the improvements that we have made without the necessity of going to conference. Representatives KANJORSKI and LATOURETTE took the lead on this bill in the House. I am hopeful they will view the Senate's well-considered modifications to the original bill as positive changes to enhance the safety and soundness of credit unions and expedite the enactment of this legislation.

I also commend Chairman LEACH and the House leadership in sending us H.R. 1151 as speedily as they did, because were we not to have gotten it in such a timely manner, we could never have completed the legislative changes that we have made part of the legislation.

Mr. President, again, I thank all of my colleagues for their outstanding work and for their cooperation, notwithstanding the differences that may have existed. We passed a good bill for working Americans.

I yield the floor.

Mr. SARBANES addressed the Chair. The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. INHOFE). The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, first of all, I express my appreciation to the distinguished chairman for his very kind remarks about my efforts with respect to this legislation. But I really want to underscore the very skillful leadership which Chairman D'AMATO provided in helping to move the bill through the committee and then through the Senate on the Senate floor.

This was not a bill without significant controversy in it. I think the committee worked out a balanced package and preserved most of it on the Senate floor—I regret not all of it. But in any event, I think the legislation we now have passed is a reaffirmation for the credit union movement of their important role in serving consumers.

When the cooperative movement was established in the early part of the century, it was premised on the proposition that individuals coming together, "small people," would gain access to credit; that the credit union movement would remain concerned and dedicated to their needs and would provide them an opportunity to share in the American economy.

Credit unions, by and large, have done a good job of that over the years. And this legislation, I think, will enable them to continue to do a good job. It has important safety and soundness provisions in it, the consequence of a very comprehensive and thorough Treasury study on the basis of which the committee was able to incorporate into the legislation some very important safeguards.

But I say to the credit union movement: We worked very hard in the aftermath of the Supreme Court decision which, of course, cast a pall over the credit union movement. It really raised very severe questions as to what the future of the credit union movement would be. This legislation has answered that question.

But I think implicit on the part of the Congress, in answering that question, is that credit unions will redouble their efforts in terms of serving the purposes for which they were established.

Some have criticized the credit union movement. They say they are getting away from those purposes. I am frank to say I do not think that is generally true of the credit union movement. I think you can point to isolated exceptions. And I only raise the warning flag that to the extent those exist, they tarnish the image of the credit union movement in the eyes of many.

So with this legislation, which has given them a path to move forward, a firm and secure path to move forward, I look forward to the credit union movement reaffirming its basic and original purposes and look forward to continuing to try to work closely with them in achieving those objectives.

I, too, like the chairman, express my very deep appreciation to the staff on both sides, to Howard Menell and Phil Bechtel and Rachel Forward and Madelyn Simmons on the Republican side—we depend very heavily on our staff; they are extremely competent and dedicated; they were in here many nights, late into morning hours in order to help put this legislation together—and Steve Harris and Marty Gruenberg and Dean Shahinian and Mike Beresik on our side of the aisle.

We were able to work together in a cooperative and positive and constructive manner on this legislation. I always look forward to those opportunities with the chairman. It is not always possible. Usually when it is not possible, we set up a separate committee to deal with the issues and work within our own committee.

I close, again, by commending the chairman for a very skillful job in helping to move this legislation through the Senate.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. LEAHY addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to proceed—I tell my colleagues I will be very brief—as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOHN GIBSON AND JACOB CHESTNUT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, much has been said on the Senate and the House floor about John Gibson and Jacob "J.J." Chestnut, two police officers on the Capitol Police Force. And much more will be said. I add my words of praise and appreciation to both of them.

I knew both these police officers. Officer Chestnut—J.J.—would see us come through the Senate at several different times, and he would tell me a member of my family has already gone through because he had seen them, or

conversely, if they came through he would tell them where I was.

Detective Gibson traveled with many of us at different occasions. He even came to one, I believe, with the "Singing Senators" from the other side of the aisle. He was the man who at events where Senators would gather, would be there because he would recognize not only the Senators, but their spouses; would wave them on through, would greet them, would make them know they were among friends. We all knew we were.

Mr. President, I have been a Senator now for nearly 24 years. I walk into this building every day that we are in session, many when we are not. I have gotten to know many of the police officers, and so many others, the hundreds of people that make this body run, make this Capitol run.

This truly is a death in the family.

Even if I had not known the officers as I did, I would feel that way. But knowing them in some ways makes it even sadder, more poignant, more difficult.

I love the Senate and I love the symbol of democracy that our Capitol holds to the public. To see this terrible, terrible thing happen in something that means so much to all of us, it is almost impossible to describe my feelings.

My wife and I had flown to Vermont last Friday. We got to my office in Burlington and were there only a matter of minutes and heard the news. Much of the rest of the evening was a blur, just sitting in our farmhouse watching the news and not believing it.

Probably the greatest tribute to two brave police officers was the fact that this Capitol, this symbol of democracy not only to our own Nation of a quarter of a billion people but to the rest of the world, this Capitol was open almost immediately thereafter.

There is no way we could bring these officers back. It is a tragedy that will be felt by their spouses and their children, in one case, grandchildren, for the rest of their lives. No matter what we do as Members of the Senate or the House, we cannot bring them back to their families. We can only offer our profound sympathy to their families. It is a sympathy that is felt deeply by every single Member of the Congress, Republican or Democrat. It makes no difference whether they have been here a long time or a short time. Our hearts go out as human beings to the families of these officers.

What we have done in immediately reopening the Capitol, in saying to the public today they can walk in here at any time as they do in the galleries today, we are saying to those officers that your deaths were not in vain. Think, Mr. President, what a different country this would be if somehow this Capitol, this symbol of democracy, was closed down. Think what it would be like if the public, not only Americans but those visiting from around the world, think what it would be like if

they could not come into this Capitol, as I did when I was a law student here in Washington or when I first came here with my parents as a teenager. If we could not be here, the public could not come in and see us debate great matters and tiny matters, they could not see that.

Mr. President, at the time of the breakup of the Soviet Union, I remember so many who came here and met with all of us and asked, "How does your democracy work," and they told me—I heard this over and over again—that they would see the picture of our Capitol when they came to Washington, that was the thing they recognized before anything else. They said they saw it sitting up here.

I have been coming to this Capitol Building as a Senator for 24 years. I feel a thrill every time I come up here. I hope I always will because I know it represents democracy. These two brave officers, just like the hundreds of other men and women who guard these Halls, they keep it open. Let's hope they always will. Let us hope that we always have the courage to do that. Then the lives that every one of us would pray we could bring to the family, those lives would not be lost in vain.

Like some others in this body, I had the privilege to serve in law enforcement for years before coming here. I know how all of us felt in law enforcement at that time if one of our own was cut down. I think if you have not served in law enforcement it is almost impossible to explain to the American public how other law enforcement officials feel when they lose one of their own. I know how the men and women in the police force here on Capitol Hill feel, but also how they feel all over the Nation. This is a loss. This is a family, a fraternity, a sorority. It is something that binds all law enforcement people together.

I am joined with every single person who works on Capitol Hill in an expression of appreciation to them and to everybody who responded—all the police officers responded, medical personnel responded. I will take just 1 minute more to express my personal appreciation to Senator BILL FRIST for what he did. I spoke with Senator FRIST yesterday and told him how much his actions meant to me, to my wife, who is a registered nurse. She knows when something like this happens, if you are a medical personnel, you respond. But he responded not only with his great skill as a cardiac surgeon, he responded when there was gunfire erupting only moments before and there might have been more, with no thought to his safety, but thinking of only those who may have been injured.

Mr. President, it is a sad day. Let us say also it is a proud day to our country because this symbol of democracy will not be closed down by the actions of one deranged American, any more than it was in the 1980s when the bomb went off outside this Chamber at night just minutes after we recessed. I re-

member so well the next morning, every single one of us was in our seats. We were here to show we wouldn't stay home. And we will be here today, as will the President and the Vice President, all of the House and Senate leadership, and the Members, to show nothing closes us down.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 4250

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I understand that H.R. 4250, the Patient Protections Act, has arrived from the House and is now at the desk. I now ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows: A bill (H.R. 4250) to provide new patient protections under group health plans.

Mr. CAMPBELL. I now ask for its second reading, and I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The bill will be read the second time on the next legislative day.

#### TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. 2312, the Treasury-Postal appropriations bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2312) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I am pleased to lay before the Senate the committee recommendation for the Treasury Department, the Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and various independent agencies. The bill crafted by the Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government contains a total of \$29,923,547,000 in new budget authority.

Of that amount, \$13,613,547,000 is in mandatory accounts, and \$3,250,000,000 is provided for much-needed funding for all Federal agencies to address the year 2000, or Y2K, computer problem,

contingent upon an emergency designation by the administration.

The committee recommendation is within the 302(b) allocations and strikes a delicate balance between congressional priorities, administrative initiatives, and agency needs. This would not have been possible without the hard work and cooperation from my friend and colleague, Senator KOHL, the subcommittee ranking member, and his staff. It was not easy to strike this balance while staying within our mutually agreed-upon fiscal constraints. As most of our colleagues are aware, approximately 80 percent of the accounts in this bill are for salaries and expenses, meeting those needs, and increasing our flexibility to fund new initiatives and congressional priorities.

The committee recommends a funding of \$11,555,000,137 for title I for the Department of Treasury. This is \$176.653 million more than the fiscal year 1998 enacted level. The committee has again placed a priority on promoting the Treasury's law enforcement, ensuring that they can hire, train, and retrain the best of Federal law enforcement, while at the same time support efforts by State and local law enforcement.

There are some provisions of title I that I would like to highlight for colleagues. This bill includes \$132 million for law enforcement initiatives through the violent crime reduction trust fund, known as the VCRTF; continuation and expansion of the Gang Resistance Education And Training Program, called the GREAT Program—to help our young people develop the skills to stay out of trouble; \$27 million to continue and expand the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative—to allow Federal, State, and local law enforcement to stem the tide of illegal firearms trafficking to the youth of this country. It includes doubling a staff level for the Customs Service antichild pornography efforts; full funding for Southwest border technology enhancements and staffing; additional funding for the IRS for much-needed customer service initiatives.

In title II, the committee recommends an appropriation of \$71.195 million for the U.S. Postal Service. Under the provisions of this bill, the Postal Service is required to provide free mailing for overseas voters and the blind, maintain 6-day delivery and rural delivery, as well as prohibited from consolidating or closing small and rural post offices.

Title III is the Executive Office of the President and funds appropriated to the President. The total recommendation for title III is \$3,838,441,000. This includes the White House Office, the Office of Management and Budget, the Office of the National Drug Control Policy, the Federal drug control programs, and funding for the National Antidrug Media Campaign.